



December 13, 2005

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
STIP Comments
Division of Program Development
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Dear Reviewer:

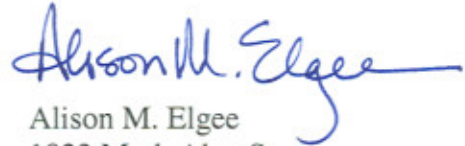
I have lived in Juneau most of my life and in the Lemon Creek Pinewood Subdivision II for over the past 20 years. I have seen numerous changes in the community and view most of them as positive. I believe that I have a healthy attitude about meeting the economic and housing needs of this community and have never adopted a "not in my back yard" mentality towards development. However, I have done so with the understanding that the problems created by additional development on neighborhoods such as mine would be appropriately addressed as needed by state and local governments.

There has been tremendous development along the stretch of Old Glacier Highway between Vanderbilt Hill and Fred Meyers during the past 20 years. In addition to new housing and commercial developments along the corridor, the state chose (appropriately) to close both Switzer and Fred Meyer's exits to left hand turns on to Egan. While I believe this was essential for safety, the end result has been a tremendous increase in traffic on the old Glacier Highway. It means that making left hand turns out of my subdivision is both difficult and with poor road conditions often dangerous. Over recent years, increased development has been debated and approved for this area based upon an assumption that the traffic congestion would soon be relieved by the Egan Drive/Sunny Point interchange scheduled to be constructed in 2006. For those of us living in the area, this promise has been the bright spot on the horizon preventing complaints as the former Sand and Gravel site is being converted to an industrial park and new housing development is underway in Lemon Creek and additional housing is being developed above Fred Meyers. Residents of Lemon Creek have long advocated for a street light at Davis and the Old Glacier Highway, but this has been deemed unnecessary- again because the traffic on the Old Glacier Highway was expected to decrease with the new interchange.

The Sunny Point/Switzer intersection is dangerous in and of itself. Annually there are serious accidents and fatalities at that intersection. The improvements are needed solely for that purpose, before even considering the impact on the residents of the Lemon Creek

area. It is my understanding that there are no engineering or right-of-way issues that will delay this particular project. The only reason I am aware of for the postponement of the Egan Drive/Sunny Point improvements was the lack of available highway funds due to the federal earmarks for specific projects. The modification of the federal appropriation process to "unearmark" transportation funds allows the Department to reconsider the postponement of this important project to the residents of Juneau. I urge you to put the Egan Drive/Sunny Point project back into the construction schedule for 2006.

Sincerely,



Alison M. Elgee
1823 Mark Alan St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801